Educational conferences of Mahomedans, Ezhavas and Tamilians were held under the auspices of the Deputy Director. Arabic munshis were newly sanctioned for three Higher Grade English schools and 36 Vernacular schools. Half-fee concession under the Code was extended to the pupils of the Vala community.

47. **University Committee.**—The expansion and improvement of higher education in the State has been engaging the earnest attention of the Government for some time past. The State now maintains a First Grade College, a Second Grade College for Women, a Training College and a Law College, in addition to which there are two Second Grade Colleges owned by Missionary bodies. There is also a large number of English and Vernacular schools under the management of Government and private agencies. On the whole, education has made considerable advance in Travancore. All the Colleges are now affiliated to the Madras University under whose fostering care higher education in the State has made rapid and remarkable progress. Government, however, feel that the time has arrived for taking stock of what has till now been achieved and also for considering the larger question whether a separate University adapted to local conditions and requirements should not be instituted for the State. An influential and representative Committee has accordingly been recently appointed under the chairmanship of the Director of Public Instruction to enquire into and report on the necessity for the establishment of a University for Travancore and to record its views on the nature of the University to be established, its location and constitution, and the lines on which it is to be worked, together with a clear statement of the financial aspect of the proposals made.

48. **Expenditure.**—As you are aware, the expenditure on education has of late been increasing enormously, the gross outlay rising from Rs. 9,55,951 to Rs. 20,65,254 in the course of the last quinquennium. The budget allotment for 1093 is Rs. 22,90,000, which is roughly more than one-seventh of the total revenue of the State. The demand for education, general and technical, primary and higher, continues to be steadily increasing. With reference to the expenditure on education, my predecessor remarked as follows in the Administration Report for 1088: "The Darbar feels that it can hardly at any time spend more than Rs. 20 lakhs from the general revenues on the Education Department without seriously paralysing the work of the other departments of the State". This limit of 20 lakhs has been already exceeded. A scheme is under the consideration of the Government for making Vernacular education partly a local charge and for the formation of local bodies to finance and control the Vernacular schools of the State.

49. **Libraries and Reading Rooms.**—With the object of helping the development of public libraries and reading rooms on sound lines and of safeguarding them from the influence of unhealthy associations, sanction was accorded to the recognition and aid of deserving institutions, as well as their periodical inspection by officers of the Education Department. A set of rules on the subject has been issued under which the amount of the grant may rise to 50 per cent of the guaranteed annual contribution based on the actual collections of the previous year."

V. After the Address in English was read, copies of the Address, of the Administration Report for 1092 M. E., of the Memoranda of subjects, and of the Report on the Administration of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department for 1092 M. E., in English and in Malayalam, were distributed among the Members.

The Assembly adjourned at 1·20 P. M., to meet again the next day at 11·30 A. M.

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